
Girl Scout Council of Southeastern Massachusetts, Volunteer Standards

Girl Scouts have established standards that Girl Scout volunteers and staff must follow to ensure high-quality programs are carried out safely. See Girl Scouts of the USA's *Leaders' Digest: Blue Book of Basic Documents 2003 and Safety-Wise 2000* for additional information. These standards were adopted by the Board of Directors of Girl Scout Council of Southeastern Massachusetts on December 9, 2004 to supplement those set forth by GSUSA.

Safety

- Girl Scout relationships are characterized by dignity, courtesy, respect, and equitable treatment.
- Adults safeguard girls during Girl Scout activities from all types of abuse including physical, emotional, verbal, and/or sexual.
- Troop meetings are held in public places.
- Possession or use of firearms, illicit drugs or narcotics by adults at any Girl Scout activity, any time, day or night, is prohibited. Qualified professionals conducting educational programs may be exempted.
- Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed at girl activities.
- The use of tobacco products is not permitted at Girl Scout activities except by adults in designated areas. Designated areas will be away from nonusers and out of the view of girl members.

Troop Finances

Troops are to manage an annual budget based on income from dues, product sales and other approved money earning activities accomplished by the leaders and girls in the troop. Family adults may solicit local businesses for funds or supplies for their girls' troops. They may not contact civic or women's groups (e. g. Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, AAUW, BPW), local branches of regional and national corporations (e.g. Shaw's, Stop & Shop, franchises) or foundations since the council approaches them for contributions and major gifts benefiting the entire membership. Endorsements and use of the Girl Scout name by sponsors is prohibited. All troops establish a bank account in the name of Troop # xxxx, Girl Scout Council of Southeastern Massachusetts, Inc., Trustee, with signatures of two adults, subject to withdrawal by either adult. A report of income and disbursements is submitted on paper or on-line to the council by each troop in May. Any adult volunteer accepting responsibility for handling money will be held legally accountable for its proper use and safekeeping.

Money-Earning Projects

Written permission from a parent or legal guardian is required for girls to participate in any money-earning project. All Brownie, Junior, Teen Girl Scouts are encouraged to participate in the annual Girl Scout "Be A Reader" candy and nut sale and Cookie Sale. Other money-earning projects may be permitted only if the troop participates in the annual Cookie Sale. For any fund-raiser, the customer must get something tangible in return for money given, either in goods or services, so walk-a-thons and raffles are not appropriate. Troops may not endorse commercial enterprises, so we do not engage in fund-raisers such as home-party type products and fast-food-chain and supermarket promotions. Also, Girl Scouts do not raise funds for other community organizations. "Be A Reader" products, Candy and Nuts, Girl Scout cookies and calendars are the only commercial products authorized by the Board of Directors. No other commercial products may be sold.

Volunteer Appointment and Development

GSCSM seeks the most highly qualified volunteers for positions. To insure the safety of our girl members, GSCSM complies with state law and runs criminal background checks on all adult members. Every volunteer selected to serve must accept the standards, policies and philosophies of the Girl Scouts of the USA and agree to meet the responsibilities of the position. Most volunteer appointments are made for one year. Reappointment is based on an acceptable CORI, past performance, adherence to council and GSUSA policies and standards, support of the Girl Scout purpose, values, and council goals as well as positive relationships with the community, parents, other volunteers and staff. Leaders are expected to attend all Service Unit meetings, which are held regionally eight times a year. Leaders on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket are welcome at, but not expected to attend. Meetings and training will be held on-island for them.

Troop Camping

One adult accompanying each troop on a camping trip must have completed TCT1-3 in the past or attended one full cycle (troop year) of level Service Unit meetings, because troop camping training is integrated into them and it is required. Camping means sleeping in tents or cabins and cooking outdoors. At least one adult who is a First Aider must accompany the troop on all overnights.

Sensitive Issues

As Girl Scouts respond to needs of girls, sensitive issues may be discussed. Our role is education and prevention and not crisis intervention. For planned programs in controversial issues, there should be advance parental permission.